

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-12 /028 W

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P 192048Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1853

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5536

FOR: CU/ARA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PN (NORIEGA, LUIS CARLOS)

SUBJ: IV CANDIDATE LUIS CARLOS NORIEGA (CODE 210)

REF: A-46 OF MARCH 23, 1972

1. POST WISHES TO RENOMINATE FOR IV GRANT LUIS CARLOS NORIEGA, PRESIDENT OF PANAMANIAN ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL. CANDIDATE ACCEPTED FOR GRANT IN FY 72 AND FY 73 NOW WISHES TO TRAVEL MID-NOVEMBER. PLANNED DEPARTURE DATE NOVEMBER 17.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, NORIEGA HAS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL ROLE IN THE GOP. HE IS A POLITICAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT LAKAS AND CARRIES OUT SENSITIVE POLITICAL TASKS FOR THE PRESIDENT. HE ALSO GENERALLY SUPERVISES THE EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE EDITORA RENOVACION NEWSPAPER CHAIN. HE HAS BEEN OF VALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE EMBASSY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. BECAUSE OF HIS IMPORTANCE TO THE EMBASSY, HIS INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN THE GOP AND HIS VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE, POST REQUESTS SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR 15-DAY GRANT. HE IS NOT ABLE TO EXTEND VISIT BEYOND 15 DAY MAXIMUM. FIRST CLASS TRAVEL. HAS VISA ELIGIBILITY. UP-DATED NAME CHECK IN PROCESS.

3. VISIT TO BE LIMITED TO WASHINGTON, D.C., NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES WITH ENTRANCE AND EXIT VIA MIAMI. NORIEGA IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH ARA/PAN
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OFFICERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH PANAMANIAN

AFFAIRS. HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN MEETING PEOPLE IN US POLITICAL PROCESS SUCH AS MEMBERS AND STAFF OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES IN HOUSE AND SENATE, AND POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS. IF TIME PERMITS HE IS INTERESTED IN MEETING MINORITY ACTIVISTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND STUDENT LEADERS. HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO GROUPS CONCERNING PANAMA AND ON CANAL QUESTION. HE IS POLITICALLY ASTUTE AND IS A MODERATE ON CANAL ISSUE. HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH IS LIMITED ALTHOUGH HE CAN UNDERSTAND IT REASONABLY WELL. DEPARTMENT SHOULD REFER TO REF AIRGRAM WITH ORIGINAL NORIEGA PROGRAM PROPOSALS AND BIO DATA, ALTHOUGH PROPOSALS GIVEN ABOVE SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE. CANDIDATE MAY HAVE FURTHER PROPOSALS UPON ARRIVAL AND CONSULTATION.

4. POST REQUESTS ACTION ASAP.

JORDEN

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